and Junagarh Districts of Gujarat recently; and

(b) if so, what are the causes for the spread of this disease and what remedial steps has been taken by the State/Central Government to check the furher spreading of the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The spread of the diseases was due to epidemic wave cycle and deaths have been attributed to untreated post measles complications, or treated by following traditional beliefs. Although intensifying awareness campaign extensive measles vaccination work has also been undertaken. So far 7000 children in Rajkot and 3861 children in Junagarh have been immunised against measles. Among the 10 district in Gujarat State as being covered under UIP, Rajkot stands included. The remaining districts will be covered by 1990. Measles vaccination has been introduced under the universal immunisation Programme from 1985-86 and it is proposed to cover all the infants in the country by 1990.

Silent Post Office Saving Bank Account

612. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Saving Bank Accounts which have been rendered 'silent' so far under New Delhi Post Office and the General Post Office, Delhi as a result of the amendment made by the Government in the Post Office Saving Bank Accounts Rules 1981 making the period for keeping the account running from six years to three years;

(b) the reasons for this sudden change; and

(c) whether the difficulties to be faced by the account holders were taken into account before taking this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Total number of Saving Bank Accounts rendered silent are as under:—

(i) New Delhi Head Post Office—49258.

(ii) Delhi General Post Office —46306.

(b) Savings accounts are treated 'silent' to ensure safety of depositors accounts which are inoperative for long spells of time. Extra care is, therefore, taken for permitting transactions, specially withdrawals, only in genuine cases. The earlier system for treating savings accounts as silent after six years was reviewed critically by the Department of Posts as this long period threw lot of unnecessary avoidable burden of work in SB branches of Post Offices, resulting in sizeable accounts of Government expenditure in balancing the accounts. Accordingly, a proposal for reducing the period from six years to three years was processed with the Ministry of Finance which issued the amendment to P.O. Saving Accounts Rules, 1981.

(c) There is provision for revival of Savings accounts without difficulty as and when the account holder applies for the same. There is hardly any likelihood of difficulty to regular depositors in the existing system.